

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claim 1 is pending in the present application and is amended herein as set forth above. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

II. Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 384,514 ("Dowson"), in view of either U.S. Patent No. 4,215,717 ("Trösch") or U.S. Patent No. 1,013,093 ("Reeve"). It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Dowson, and Trösch or Reeve, does not render unpatentable claim 1, as amended herein, for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is amended herein to include, at least in part, the features of "the inner ends of the ribs and the guide member being positioned within the valve chest; and the length of the valve stem is equal to the distance between the valve inlet and the valve outlet in the valve casing." Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 1 does not constitute new matter and is supported by the specification at page 2, lines 24-30, page 3, lines 33-35, page 4, lines 30-34, and page 5, lines 6-11. Furthermore, the amended language is supported by Figures 1 and 2. The combination of Dowson, and Trösch or Reeve, does not disclose the amended claim limitations and therefore, those references cannot render unpatentable claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Specifically, neither Dowson, Trösch, nor Reeve discloses "the inner ends of the ribs and the guide member being positioned within the valve chest; and the length of the valve stem is equal to the distance between the valve inlet and the valve outlet in the valve casing."

The cross-bar 36 according to Dowson is not positioned within the valve chest, as plainly shown in Figure 3 of Dowson. Furthermore, the valve stem according to Dowson is not equal to the distance of the inlet and outlet flanges of the valve as shown in Figures 1 and 3, and the specification of Dowson makes no reference to this claim feature. Indeed, the Final Office Action admits at page 3 that

Dowson does not disclose this claimed feature. Thus, Dowson does not disclose, or suggest, the features of "the inner ends of the ribs and the guide member being positioned within the valve chest; and the length of the valve stem is equal to the distance between the valve inlet and the valve outlet in the valve casing."

The crosspiece 45 and boss 46 according to Trösch is also not positioned within the valve chest, as plainly shown in Figures 4 to 6 of Trösch. Furthermore, the valve stem according to Trösch is not equal to the distance between the inlet and outlet flanges of the valve as shown in Figures 4 and 5. Thus, Trösch does not disclose, or suggest, the features of "the inner ends of the ribs and the guide member being positioned within the valve chest; and the length of the valve stem is equal to the distance between the valve inlet and the valve outlet in the valve casing."

The spider 16 according to Reeve is also not positioned within the valve chest, as plainly shown in Figure 1 of Reeve. Furthermore, the valve stem according to Reeve is not equal to the distance between the inlet and outlet flanges of the valve as shown in Figure 1. Thus, Reeve does not disclose, or suggest, the features of "the inner ends of the ribs and the guide member being positioned within the valve chest; and the length of the valve stem is equal to the distance between the valve inlet and the valve outlet in the valve casing."

As indicated above, the combination of Dowson, and Trösch or Reeve does not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features of amended claim 1. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Dowson, and Trösch or Reeve does not render unpatentable claim 1.

For the preceding reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended herein, is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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